

Chapman, Ashton

(Atlanta, GA)

1932-1933

Atlanta, Georgia,  
July 20, 1932.

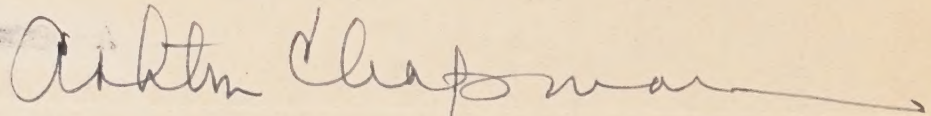
American Numismatic Society,  
New York, Broadway & 156th St.  
New York.

Gentlemen:

I am preparing for publication an article about the early minting of coins from gold obtained in the southern reaches of the Appalachian mountains and should like, if possible, to obtain a photograph of the press on which Chrsitopher Bechtler privately minted gold near Rutherfordton, N. C., about one hundred years ago, which I understand is now in your possession; also photographs of some of the coins minted on this press. Have you any literature about Bechtler or his activities that you could furnish?

I shall appreciate it very much if you will let me hear from you about the above at your early convenience, advising me the cost of the material requested. Stamped, addressed envelope enclosed for reply.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ashton Chapman". The signature is written in dark ink and extends across the width of the page.

ASHTON CHAPMAN,  
P. O. Box 1515,  
Atlanta, Ga.

July 27, 1932.

Mr. Ashton Chapman  
P. O. Box 1515  
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Sir:

As for literature about the Bechtlers, the best I can do is to give you references. Various accounts have appeared in the NUMISMATIST which is published every month by Frank Duffield, 4215 Fernhill Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland. I note in Volume XXV 1912 page 122, the same - page 261, and Volume XLI 1928 page 729 was an account and also an account appeared in the Mentor for August 1928 by Marion G. Durlacher. The latest and best account was by Clarence Griffith "The Bechtlers and Bechtler Coinage and Gold Mining in North Carolina". This appeared in the Numismatist, Volume XLIV of 1929 page 549, 558 and 808. This account in the Numismatist was copied from the pamphlet issued by Griffith of Spindale, N. C., County Historian of Rutherford county and is published by the Forest City Courier, Forest City, N. C. An older account was by Thomas Featherstonehaugh, "A Private Mint in North Carolina" reprinted from publications of the Southern Historical Association. Unfortunately this reprint is not dated so I cannot say when it appeared. You will see but little has been written about the Bechtlers while very little has been written on Templeton Reid issues.

We did make some photographs several years ago of the press that is now in our museum. I cannot locate any of these photographs and up to date have not found the negatives. I am still looking for them and in case I do find them will let you know. Also at the same time I would try to photograph a few of the coins themselves. I very much doubt if we could rephotograph the press at the present time as it is set up in our museum and is not in a very good light for photographing.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

August 17, 1932.

Mr. Ashton Chapman  
P. O. Box 1515  
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Sir:

As I wrote you in my letter of July 27th to the effect that if I should locate the negatives taken of the Bechtler press I would let you know. I have located two of these negatives and can supply you a print of each for \$1.00. A negative of representative Bechtler coins would be \$3.00.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

18 Avery Drive, N. E.,  
Atlanta, Georgia,  
Feb. 15, 1933.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,  
American Numismatic Society,  
Broadway & 156th St.,  
New York, New York.

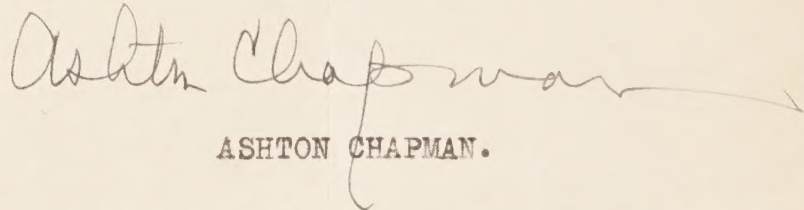
Dear Mr. Wood:

In your letter of August 17th you stated you had located two negatives taken of the Bechtler press, and could supply prints at 50¢ each.

Accordingly I am enclosing 60¢ in stamps, to include packing and postage. I shall need only one print, and shall thank you to send me whichever of the two views you think shows the press to the best advantage and will reproduce best in a newspaper. It would be best for the print to be black and white, glossy finish, and as near  $6\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ " as possible.

I appreciate very much your kindness in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

  
ASHTON CHAPMAN.

P. S. Will you please plainly mark the package "DO NOT BEND OR FOLD" so the postman will handle accordingly?

February 18, 1933.

Mr. Ashton Chapman  
18 Avery Drive, N. E.  
Atlanta, Georgia.

Dear Mr. Chapman:

Your favor just received and  
I am sending you a print from both negatives.  
The second one you may have with our compli-  
ments. Unfortunately the second print was  
light struck at the bottom.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Secretary